

that would have to be corrected before we could grant the program full approval. As of December 11, 2000, some of those 99 programs had since been granted full approval and the remainder still had interim approval status.

After a State or local permitting program is granted full or interim approval, EPA has oversight of the program to insure that the program is implemented correctly and is not changed in an unacceptable manner. Section 70.4(i) of the part 70 regulations requires permitting authorities to keep us apprised of any proposed program modifications and also to submit any program modifications to us for approval. Section 70.10(b) requires any approved operating permits program to be implemented “ * * * in accordance with the requirements of this part and of any agreement between the State and the Administrator concerning operation of the program.”

Furthermore, 40 CFR 70.4(i) and 70.10(b) provide authority for us to require permitting authorities to correct program or implementation deficiencies. As explained previously, EPA has exercised these authorities by in some instances issuing notices of deficiency and in other instances issuing letters explaining why we do not agree that deficiencies exist.

Administrative Requirements

Under section 307(b)(1) of the Act, petitions for judicial review of EPA's letters responding to the citizen letters on the Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, and Ohio operating permits programs may be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit within 60 days of August 20, 2002.

Dated: August 8, 2002.

William T. Harnett,

Director, Information Transfer and Program Integration Division.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[CO-001-0069; FRL-7262-1]

Adequacy Status of the Aspen, Colorado PM₁₀ Maintenance Plan for Transportation Conformity Purposes

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of adequacy.

SUMMARY: In this document, EPA is notifying the public that we have found that the motor vehicle emissions

budgets in the Aspen maintenance plan for particulate matter of 10 micrograms in size or smaller (PM₁₀) submitted on November 9, 2001, are adequate for conformity purposes. On March 2, 1999, the D.C. Circuit Court ruled that submitted State Implementation Plans (SIPs) cannot be used for conformity determinations until EPA has affirmatively found them adequate. As a result of our finding, the City of Aspen and Pitkin County, the Colorado Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Transportation are required to use the motor vehicle emissions budgets from this submitted maintenance plan for future conformity determinations.

DATES: This finding is effective September 4, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeffrey Kimes, Air & Radiation Program (8P-AR), United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, 999 18th Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado 80202-2466, (303) 312-6445. The letter documenting our finding is available at EPA's conformity website: <http://www.epa.gov/oms/transp/conform/adequacy.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Throughout this document wherever “we”, “us”, or “our” are used we mean EPA.

This action is simply an announcement of a finding that we have already made. We sent a letter to the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division on May 16, 2002, stating that the motor vehicle emissions budgets in the submitted Aspen PM₁₀ maintenance plan are adequate. This finding has also been announced on our conformity website at <http://www.epa.gov/oms/transp/conform/adequacy.htm>.

Transportation conformity is required by section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. Our conformity rule requires that transportation plans, programs, and projects conform to SIPs and establishes the criteria and procedures for determining whether or not they do. Conformity to a SIP means that transportation activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the national ambient air quality standards.

The criteria by which we determine whether a SIP's motor vehicle emission budgets are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). Please note that an adequacy review is separate from our completeness review, and it also should not be used to prejudge our ultimate approval of the SIP. Even if we find a

budget adequate, the SIP could later be disapproved, and vice versa.

We've described our process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets in a memo entitled, “Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision,” dated May 14, 1999. We followed this guidance in making our adequacy determination.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: August 6, 2002.

Robert E. Roberts,

Regional Administrator, Region VIII.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7262-8]

Watershed Initiative: Call for Nominations

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA is launching a new grant program to encourage the protection and restoration of our country's water bodies through the use of watershed approaches. The President's fiscal year (FY) 2003 budget, which is now before Congress, incorporates a request for \$21 million for this Watershed Initiative. Subject to the availability of appropriations for this purpose, EPA plans to select through a competitive process up to 20 watersheds throughout the country for grants to support promising watershed-based approaches to clean water. This notice sets forth the process that will be used for selecting the watersheds and serves as the call for nominations from Governors and Tribal Leaders.

DATES: Governor or Tribal Leader nominations must be postmarked and received electronically by EPA on or before November 21, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Nomination packages must be submitted both by mail or courier *and* electronically. Please follow the detailed instructions provided in section V of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol Peterson, telephone: 202-566-1304; e-mail: peterson.carol@epa.gov or one of the regional contacts listed in section VI of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. Additional information and any updated guidance will be posted on the Watershed Initiative's website at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative>.